

## Message Text

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ACTION BIB-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ICA-11 EB-08 DODE-00 CSC-01  
OES-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 H-01  
NSC-05 L-03 SP-02 /078 W  
-----022060 311557Z /47

R 311401Z MAY 78  
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0392  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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DEPT FOR ICA/VOA AND BIB

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OEXC, OVIP,ETEL, UR, US  
SUBJECT: IEEE - POPOV SOCIETY EXCHANGE: RECEPTION  
RADIO LIBERTY AND VOA BROADCASTS

REF: STATE 104264

1. SUMMARY. DURING MAY 13 - 27 IEEE DELEGATION VISIT TO SOVIET UNION, GEORGE JACOBS, HEAD OF DELEGATION AND DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING FOR BIB, WAS ABLE TO HEAR RADIO LIBERTY BROADCASTS IN MOSCOW, LENINGRAD AND KIEV DESPITE HEAVY JAMMING. HE FOUND RECEPTION OF VOA BROADCASTS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN TO BE OUTSTANDING IN THE THREE CITIES VISITED. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF THE IEEE DELEGATION VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION FROM MAY 13 - 27, GEORGE JACOBS, HEAD OF DELEGATION AND DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING FOR BIB, HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN REGULARLY TO BROADCASTS OF RADIO LIBERTY AND VOA DIRECTED TO THE SOVIET UNION. LISTENING  
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WAS DONE MAINLY ON SONY ICF-7600 RADIO. THIS SMALL, PALM-HELD RADIO USES A BUILT-IN ONE METER LONG ROD ANTENNA AND TUNES THE 75, 49, 31, 25 AND 19 METER SHORTWAVE BANDS. RADIO DOES NOT HAVE FINE TUNING CONTROL, AND FREQUENCY CALIBRATION IS APPROXIMATE. JACOBS DID ALL TUNING BY SCANNING BANDS IN MUCH THE SAME MANNER AS TYPICAL TARGET LISTENERS. SOME LISTENING WAS ALSO DONE

ON RADIOS IN APARTMENTS VISITED.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF HIS OBSERVATIONS:  
RECEPTION RADIO LIBERTY BROADCASTS WAS NOT POSSIBLE IN MOSCOW CENTER DUE TO INTENSE JAMMING. WHILE VISITING APARTMENT OF ENGINEER ON NORTHERN FRINGE OF CITY, NEAR RING ROAD, HOST TUNED IN RADIO LIBERTY RUSSIAN BROADCASTS FOR JACOBS AT 1730 GMT ON 13 METER BAND (21510 KHZ). RECEPTION WAS AT TIMES RELATIVELY CLEAR DESPITE MODERATE BACKGROUND JAMMING. HOST SAID THAT RECEPTION RADIO LIBERTY WAS OFTEN POSSIBLE AT HIS LOCATION, BUT THAT IT REQUIRED A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND PATIENCE TO LISTEN THROUGH JAMMING.

ON MAY 19, ON RED ARROW EXPRESS TRAIN FROM MOSCOW TO LENINGRAD, JACOBS ENCOUNTERED SEVERE JAMMING WHEN TRAIN DEPARTED AT 2030 GMT. AS TRAIN ROLLED OUT OF RANGE OF MOSCOW GROUNDWAVE JAMMERS, RADIO LIBERTY RECEPTION GRADUALLY IMPROVED. BY 2100 GMT, APPROXIMATELY 60 KM NORTH OF MOSCOW, RADIO LIBERTY RUSSIAN LANGUAGE BROADCASTS COULD BE HEARD RELATIVELY CLEARLY DESPITE MODERATE SKYWAVE JAMMING ON TWO FREQUENCIES IN THE 19 METER BAND (15115 AND 15370 KHZ) AND ON A FREQUENCY IN THE POPULAR 25 METER BAND (11875 KHZ). RECEPTION WAS POSSIBLE UNTIL 2300 GMT WHEN JACOBS STOPPED MONITORING, EXCEPT FOR BRIEF PERIOD AROUND 2145 GMT WHEN TRAIN WAS WITHIN RANGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF GROUNDWAVE JAMMERS APPARENTLY IN TOWN OF KALININ.

IN LENINGRAD, HEAVY JAMMING OF CRITCHLOW REVERBERATION TYPE BLOCKED RECEPTION OF RADIO LIBERTY RUSSIAN BROADCASTS, BUT JACOBS DID HEAR RL BALTIC TRANSMISSION ON MAY 20, 21 AND 22 BETWEEN 2030 AND 2130 GMT. RECEPTION WAS EXCEPTIONALLY CLEAR IN 19 METER BAND (15130 KHZ), WITH NO LOCAL GROUNDWAVE JAMMING AND ONLY WEAK BACKGROUND JAMMING. CONSULATE SOURCE REPORTED THAT RECEPTION RL RUSSIAN BROADCASTS POSSIBLE FAIRLY REGULARLY ON FREQUENCIES IN 16, 13 AND 11 METER BANDS. THESE WERE NOT ON RADIO USED BY JACOBS.

ON MAY 24, IN HOTEL LYBID' IN KIEV CENTER, JACOBS RECEIVED RADIO LIBERTY RUSSIAN BROADCAST CLEARLY THROUGH MODERATE JAMMING AT 0510 GMT ON FREQUENCY IN POPULAR 25 METER BAND (11875 KHZ). SAME FREQUENCY WAS HEAVILY JAMMED ON MAY 25 AND 26, BLOCKING RECEPTION. ATTEMPTS TO RECEIVE RADIO LIBERTY IN APARTMENT OF SHORTWAVE FAN AT SUBURBAN LOCATION VISITED BY JACOBS WAS UNSUCCESSFUL DURING EVENING OF MAY 25 DUE TO JAMMING. HOST AND GROUP OF FRIENDS, HOWEVER, STATED THAT RECEPTION WAS OFTEN

POSSIBLE AND THAT THEY LISTENED REGULARLY TO RL  
RUSSIAN BROADCASTS. HOST TUNED IN RFE POLISH BROADCAST  
WHICH WAS HEARD WELL ON SEVERAL FREQUENCIES DESPITE SOME  
JAMMING. HOST AND FRIENDS, ALL POTENTIAL EMIGRES,  
CLAIMED NO DESIRE TO LISTEN TO RL UKRAINIAN BROADCASTS.  
4. JACOBS LISTENED TO VOA RUSSIAN LANGUAGE BROADCASTS  
ALMOST NIGHTLY BETWEEN 2000 AND 2130 GMT, EITHER AT HOTEL  
OR AT APARTMENTS VISITED. RECEPTION WAS GENERALLY GOOD  
TO EXCELLENT ON SEVERAL FREQUENCIES IN 49, 31, 25 AND 19  
METER BANDS. EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG SIGNALS, OF LOCAL  
STATION QUALITY, WERE NOTED AT TIMES IN THE 25 AND 19

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METER BANDS.

5. RECEPTION VOA ENGLISH LANGUAGE BREAKFAST SHOW WAS  
GENERALLY OUTSTANDING WHEN LISTENED TO DAILY BETWEEN  
0400 AND 0500 GMT, AND DELEGATION DEPENDED ON IT FOR  
LATEST NEWS. SIGNAL WAS ALWAYS GOOD AND OFTEN OF LOCAL  
STATION QUALITY ON SEVERAL FREQUENCIES IN 49, 31, 25  
AND 19 METER BANDS, WITH RECEPTION CONSISTENTLY TOPS ON  
31 AND 25 METERS. SIMILAR RESULTS WITH EVENING TRANS-  
MISSION BETWEEN 2000 AND 2100 GMT, WITH OPTIMUM  
RECEPTION IN 25 AND 19 METER BANDS. IN THREE CITIES  
VISITED, VOA WAS DOMINANT ENGLISH LANGUAGE SIGNAL,  
EXCEEDING BBC BROADCASTS IN STRENGTH, CLARITY AND  
NUMBER OF RECEIVABLE CHANNELS.

6. AMONG PROFESSIONALS MET DURING EXCHANGE MANY  
OPENLY PRAISED VOA RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE BROAD-

CASTS, AND CLAIMED TO LISTEN REGULARLY. THEY GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED VOA PEN, KEYRING AND LAPEL PIN MEMENTOS, AND SOME ASKED FOR EXTRAS FOR THEIR CHILDREN. SIMILAR MEMENTOS GIVEN TO TAXI DRIVERS, WAITERS, YOUNG PEOPLE, ETC. ALWAYS BROUGHT FORTH COMPLIMENTARY COMMENTS ABOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"GOLOS AMERIKA." RECOGNITION AND PRAISE FOR RADIO LIBERTY (RADIO SVOBODA) CAME FROM A FEW DISSIDENTS AND POTENTIAL EMIGRES WHO CAME IN CONTACT WITH DELEGATION MEMBERS, BUT THEY ALSO CLAIMED THAT BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTY IN HEARING RL, THEY DEPEND ON VOA AND BBC FOR MAIN SOURCE OF NEWS, INFORMATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

7. SHORTWAVE RADIOS ON SALE IN DEPARTMENT STORES IN THREE CITIES VISITED WERE GENERALLY LIMITED TO ABOUT A HALF DOZEN DIFFERENT MODELS, RANGING IN PRICE BETWEEN 75 AND 150 RUBLES. NONE OF AVAILABLE SETS TUNED BELOW 25 METER BAND OR ABOVE 12 MHZ. BERYOZKA STORES CARRIED A WIDE RANGE OF PREDOMINANTLY JAPANESE MANUFACTURED RADIOS, MOST ALL OF WHICH TUNED AS HIGH AS 22 MHZ (13 METERS) AND SOME TO AS HIGH AS 30 MHZ (11 METERS). JACOBS NOTED ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF RADIO COMPONENTS ON SALE IN DEPARTMENT STORES FOR RADIO HOBBYISTS AND EXPERIMENTERS.

8. SHORTWAVE FANS IN KIEV CONFIRMED USE OF ADAPTERS (PRISPOBLENIE) FOR EXTENDING FREQUENCY RANGE OF SOVIET RADIOS BEYOND 12 MHZ. ACCORDING TO FANS, KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSONS CAN MAKE THEIR OWN ADAPTERS FOR ABOUT 50 RUBLES FROM PARTS READILY AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT STORES, OR THEY CAN BE CUSTOM MADE "ON THE SIDE" BY SOME RADIO TECHNICIANS FOR ABOUT 75 TO 100 RUBLES. JACOBS WAS TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT THOSE WHO "SERIOUSLY" WANT TO HEAR FOREIGN BROADCASTS PREFER TO INVEST THEIR MONEY IN A FOREIGN MADE RADIO CAPABLE OF EXTENDED TUNING.

9. JACOBS MET BRIEFLY WITH HOUSTON MAY 16 AT MOSCOW EMBASSY PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF HOUSTON'S TECHNICAL RECEPTION SURVEY WHICH WILL INCLUDE FURTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSESSMENT OF RL SIGNAL. BETTS

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## Message Attributes

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